

P 080502Z JUL 97
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9389
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
RUCJBBAUSCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//J2/J5//
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY DHAKA
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ISA//
AMCONSUL KARACHI
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J2/J5//
AMCONSUL MUMBAI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL CHENNAI
CIA WASHDC

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 006957

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/INS AND INR

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TAGS: KRP PINR PTER IN PK

SUBJECT: JAMMU AND KASHMIR ISLAMIC FRONT (C-NA7-00565)

REF: STATE 106548

¶1. (U) CLASSIFIED SECRET BY NEW DELHI ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR GORDON HELLWIG. REASON 1.5 (C).

¶2. (S) EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE MORE INFORMATION ON THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ISLAMIC FRONT (JKIF) AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. POST PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, OBTAINED BY THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE THROUGH ITS CONTACTS IN THE INDIAN INTELLIGENCE BUREAU IN THE HOME MINISTRY, WHICH PROVIDED A WRITTEN REPORT ON THE JKIF. POLOFFS HAVE HEARD VERY LITTLE FROM CONTACTS IN KASHMIR VALLEY REGARDING THE JKIF, AS MOST OF THEIR TERRORIST OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE VALLEY. NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE VARIOUS MILITANT GROUPS IN KASHMIR HAVE NEVER INCLUDED THE JKIF AS A MILITANT GROUP OF PROMINENCE IN KASHMIR.

BEGIN TEXT (ENTIRE TEXT IS CONFIDENTIAL):

JAMMU AND KASHMIR ISLAMIC FRONT (JKIF)

THE GENESIS OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ISLAMIC FRONT (JKIF) DATES BACK TO 1989 WHEN ITS PRECURSOR, THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STUDENTS LIBERATION FRONT (JKSLF), WAS FLOATED BY HILAL BEG FOLLOWING DIFFERENCES WITH YASIN MALIK, THE THEN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF JKLF. THE JKSLF INDULGED IN HIGH-PROFILE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER CASES. LATER IN APRIL 1991, HILAL BEG WAS PERSUADED BY PAKISTAN'S INTER-SERVICES INTELLIGENCE DIVISION (ISI) TO RENAME THE JKSLF AS IKHWAN-UL-MUSALMEEN (IUM). THE IUM LED BY HILAL BEG WAS TASKED BY PAKISTAN ISI TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE JAMMU AND KASHMIR. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HILAL BEG CREATED A NETWORK OF HIS AGENTS IN CALCUTTA, BIHAR, ANDHRA PRADESH, KATHMANDU, AND DHAKA. THE ARREST OF FOUR MUSLIM TERRORISTS (INCLUDING 3 KASHMIRIS) IN OCTOBER 1993 AT HYDERABAD AND CALCUTTA REVEALED THE PLANS OF THE IUM TO STAGE BOMBAY-TYPE BLASTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF INDIA BY RECRUITING, TRAINING, AND ORGANISING GROUPS OF SABOTEURS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

THE JKIF WAS FORMED IN SEPTEMBER 1995 BY ONE SAJJAD AHMED KENU, WHO WAS A WELL-KNOWN ACTIVIST OF THE IUM. SAJJAD KENU HAD ESCAPED FROM SRINAGAR JAIL IN JUNE 1995 AND RESURFACED AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE JKIF IN SEPTEMBER 1995. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE JKIF HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM ITS PAKISTAN-BASED LEADERSHIP TO CARRY OUT BOMB BLASTS OUTSIDE J&K, PARTICULARLY IN DELHI. ON NOVEMBER 21, 1995, THE JKIF KINGPIN KHURSHEED AHMED, A.K.A. NAYEEM (SINCE KILLED), ENGINEERED A HIGH INTENSITY BLAST WITH THE HELP OF TWO SIKHS, NAMELY HARDEEP SINGH, A.K.A. NEELA, AND HIS BROTHER RAJINDER, CLOTH VENDORS IN SRINAGAR. THIS EXPLOSION, IN THE CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA OF NEW DELHI, INJURED

23 PERSONS AND DAMAGED A LARGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES AND SHOPS. BEFORE THIS INCIDENT, ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1995, THE SAME SIKH MILITANTS ALSO CAUSED TWO SIMULTANEOUS GRENADE EXPLOSIONS NEAR THE RED FORT IN DELHI, INJURING 47 PERSONS. THE JKIF ALSO CAUSED ANOTHER EXPLOSION IN SADAR BAZAR, DELHI, ON JANUARY 3, 1996, IN WHICH 7 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 36 INJURED.

THE JKIF WAS CONTROLLED FROM PAKISTAN BY PAKISTAN ISI AND TIGER MEMON (PRIME ACCUSED IN THE BOMBAY BOMB BLAST CASES OF 1993). THEIR CONTACT IN PAKISTAN-OCCUPIED KASHMIR WAS BILAL BEG, WHO WAS RUNNING AN INDOCTRINATION CAMP NEAR MUZAFFARABAD, FUNDED EXTENSIVELY BY THE ISI TO CARRY OUT TERRORIST ACTS IN INDIA, ONE COLONEL FAROOQ OF PAKISTAN ISI TASKED BILAL BEG AND TIGER MEMON TO UTILISE KATHMANDU-BASED ACTIVISTS LATEEF AND JAVED KRAWAH TO SET OFF BLASTS IN DELHI BEFORE THE LOK SABHA [UPPER HOUSE OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT] ELECTIONS. A TEAM OF COMMITTED JKIF CADRES WAS GIVEN A TWO WEEK SPECIALISED CAPSULE COURSE IN EXPLOSIVES NEAR THE AFGHAN BORDER IN MARCH-APRIL 1996. ON MAY 21, 1996, THIS JKIF TEAM SET OFF A VERY HIGH INTENSITY EXPLOSION AT LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI, IN WHICH 13 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 40 OTHERS INJURED. THE RDX USED IN THIS BLAST WAS BROUGHT FROM KATHMANDU. ALTHOUGH OTHER ACCUSED, NAMELY FAROOQ KHAN, A.K.A. ANWAR SADAT LATIF, JAVED CHHOTA, MEHMOOD KILLE, NAZA (ALL KASHMIRIS) AND NAUSHAD (A DELHI MUSLIM) WERE ARRESTED, JAVED KRAWAH AND RIAZ, A.K.A. RIAZ MULLA, MANAGED TO ESCAPE. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORTS, JAVED KRAWAH IS IN PAKISTAN AT PRESENT. THE SUBSEQUENT EXPLOSION IN A RAJASTHAN ROADWAYS BUS NEAR DAUSA ON MAY 22, 1996 WAS ALSO ENGINEERED BY THE JKIF. ANOTHER JKIF TEAM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ABDUL GANI, A.K.A. ASSADULLAH, WAS SENT TO EXECUTE A BOMB BLAST IN AHMEDABAD. THE BLAST WAS PREVENTED BY THE TIMELY ARREST OF TEAM MEMBERS IN AHMEDABAD AND THE SEIZURE OF THEIR HIGH GRADE EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL.

JKIF AGAIN PLANNED A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS IN DELHI BEFORE REPUBLIC DAY 1997 AT THE BEHEST OF PAKISTAN ISI AND TIGER MEMON. ONE FAIYAZ AHMED SHAH, A.K.A. FAROOQ, TASKED BY BILAL AHMED BEG AND JAVED KRAWAH IN PAKISTAN, WAS GIVEN 20 KG OF RDX AND MONEY IN KATHMANDU. BEFORE HE COULD EXECUTE THE PLAN, FAIYAZ AHMED SHAH, A.K.A. FAROOQ, ALONG WITH GHULAM RASOOL MIR, A.K.A. GOGA, AIJAZ AHMED CHOUDHARY, NAZIR AHMED, AND MANZOOR AHMED DANPOSH, A.K.A. JAN, WERE ARRESTED IN KATHMANDU ON DECEMBER 11, 1996.

FOR ALL THESE VIOLENT ACTIVITIES, THE JKIF HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY USING KATHMANDU AS ITS BASE WITH THE ACTIVE CONNIVANCE OF PAKISTAN ISI. TO DISPATCH MEN AND MATERIAL, AND TO EXECUTE EXPLOSIONS IN INDIA, KATHMANDU WAS INVARIABLY MADE THE NODAL POINT AND JKIF EXPLOITED THE VULNERABLE KATHMANDU-BASED KASHMIRI BUSINESSMEN FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES SINCE THEY HAD A READYMADE AND CLEAN PAST. JKIF KINGPIN JAVED KRAWAH HIMSELF USED TO RUN A CARPET BUSINESS IN KATHMANDU.

END TEXT

WISNER